

Healthcare Sector Imaging & IT Division

Siemens Boosts Advanced Image Reading Efficiency and Opens New Path Into The Clinical Routine with *syngo.via*

The company will unveil its new imaging software for multimodality reading at RSNA 2009.

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 28, 2009 – Get ready for advanced visualization to become common practice in the clinical routine when Siemens introduces *syngo®.via*¹ at the 95th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) from November 29 to December 3 at McCormick Place (Booth #825, East Building/Lakeside Center, Hall D) in Chicago. With *syngo.via*, Siemens' new imaging software for multimodality reading of clinical cases, the company is placing special focus on reading efficiency through automated case preparation and structured case navigation across multiple specialties, including cardiology, oncology, and neurology. *syngo.via* uniquely integrates imaging devices and IT, such as Siemens MRI, CT, and PET-CT scanners and its new Picture Archiving and Communications System, *syngo®.plaza*². Siemens is demonstrating the benefits of this integration, which creates a comprehensive solution based on client-server technology.

“Delivering on market demand for improved image-reading tools in the clinical setting requires special capabilities that we are in the unique position to deliver,” explains Bernd Montag, CEO, Imaging and IT Division, Siemens Healthcare. “In order to develop *syngo.via*, Siemens tapped into its in-depth knowledge of disease-specific reading processes and was able to deliver a cutting-edge imaging technology that offers the latest clinical applications for both routine as well as advanced reading. Striving to profoundly change our customers' approach to image reading, we want to help them fully leverage the diagnostic potential of our latest imaging technology.”

Clinical Efficiency

Because *syngo.via* enables physicians to effortlessly access and utilize cutting-edge advanced visualization tools across the clinical spectrum, it stands as an important technological milestone toward improving workflow efficiency and diagnostic confidence levels. For instance, Automated Case Preparation in *syngo.via* automatically loads images into the appropriate application and

sorts them into the corresponding layout – pre-processed according to the disease-specific requirements, thereby eliminating the need to manually choose the application, load data, and select corresponding layouts. With just one click, physicians can begin viewing and reading images their way, according to their needs. When calling up a cardiac CT case, for example, *syngo.via* selects a suitable cardiac application³, automatically removes the blood pool and ribs, selects an appropriate cardiac phase, and displays the images in the corresponding layout. The coronary arteries are displayed in such a way that allows the physician to immediately begin reading the case. With case preparation left to *syngo.via*, physicians have more time to focus on image reading and diagnosis.

Case Navigator functionality is yet another way *syngo.via* supports structured workflow, by categorizing various workflow steps and aligning the proper images to each corresponding step. In an MRI whole-body case, the extensive image series is automatically structured into layouts and workflow steps – sorted according to body regions – reducing physician's need to search and sort data and enabling advanced reading to begin as soon as the exam concludes. Furthermore, during the reading process, findings and measurements can be automatically tracked and listed with Findings Navigator, which allows users to effectively navigate between various findings with just one click. What's more, the software automatically integrates the finding into a tailored and context-specific report⁴, enabling users to access and share images, findings, and results quickly – on their terms.

Innovative Imaging and IT Integration

Showcasing the company's distinct advantage as an integrated healthcare provider, Siemens demonstrates the benefits of offering innovative integration of imaging systems and image reading software in one complete solution that is supported by client-server technology. This type of imaging device and IT integration allows acquired images to be promptly available within the network. For example, images created with the newest CT functionalities, such as CT Dual Energy, can be utilized anywhere within that network. MR Protocol planning, for instance, can be done remotely and the information needed is transferred to the scanner automatically.

Since it is crucial that radiologists and cardiologists have access to advanced reading applications on their existing PACS (Picture Archiving and Communications System) workstations, *syngo.via* has been designed to integrate with existing PACS and Radiology Information Systems of all major vendors. What's more, in conjunction with Siemens' newest corresponding PACS, *syngo®.plaza*, images do not need to be additionally sent from the imaging device since *syngo.plaza* drives the entire image routing process. Through no-click integration, images are auto-routed and automatically available on *syngo.via*, allowing users fast access to images and the appropriate

syngo.via applications. Combined with a unified user-interface, this helps ensure a smooth transition between different applications and helps speed up the reading workflow.

Image results can now even be accessed through web portals so that, for example, referring physicians can view images and results anywhere⁵, further demonstrating how *syngo.via* transforms the entire workflow from planning to reading, therapy, and result sharing, bringing advanced reading into the clinical routine.

Complete Product Lifecycle Support

With the Siemens service agreement, the *syngo.via* core functionality and clinical applications may be kept up-to-date through ongoing enhancements. These are easily available and delivered through the secure remote infrastructure. Furthermore, Siemens provides each institution with a dedicated contact person who provides up to 24/7 remote support for technical service and application topics at the same time. By encompassing software maintenance and support, the service agreement provides transparency of service costs, making Total Cost of Ownership foreseeable.

The **Siemens Healthcare Sector** is one of the world's largest suppliers to the healthcare industry and a trendsetter in medical imaging, laboratory diagnostics, medical information technology and hearing aids. Siemens is the only company to offer customers products and solutions for the entire range of patient care from a single source – from prevention and early detection to diagnosis, and on to treatment and aftercare. By optimizing clinical workflows for the most common diseases, Siemens also makes healthcare faster, better and more cost-effective. Siemens Healthcare employs some 49,000 employees worldwide and operates in over 130 countries. In fiscal year 2008 (to September 30), the Sector posted revenue of 11.2 billion euros and profit of 1.2 billion euros. For further information please visit:

www.siemens.com/healthcare.

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¹ *syngo.via* can be used as a standalone device or together with a variety of *syngo.via*-based software options, which are medical devices in their own rights.

² The information about *syngo.plaza* is being provided for planning purposes. The product is pending 510(k) review, and is not yet commercially available.

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⁴ The disease-specific report created in *syngo.via* is not the final diagnostic report. The final diagnostic report is generated and signed off within the RIS. Archiving of diagnostic reports is the responsibility of the RIS.

⁵ Prerequisites include: Internet connection to clinical network, DICOM compliance, meeting of minimum hardware requirements, and adherence to local data security regulations.